

JUNE DINNER MEETING
Tuesday June 29, 2004

Just Enough Precision
David Gelperin, ClearSpecs Enterprises

Requirements development continues to be a major challenge for system development, enhancement, and outsourcing projects in particular. There are many ways to describe requirements from the user stories and tests of Extreme Programming to comprehensive requirements specifications, but most make heavy use of natural language (e.g. English, French, etc.). Too often, stakeholders (e.g., customers, application users, system engineers, and testers) interpret requirements differently due to the ambiguity of natural language and the incompleteness of the descriptions.

Detailed information about system requirements is eventually recorded in hardware or software. Even though recorded details are inevitable, *you can choose when and how they first appear*. Today, many details are **first** recorded in code, making some easy to see (e.g. UI features) and others very hard (e.g. the complex Boolean expressions that define “valid” or “eligible”).

This presentation focuses on five specification techniques for recording critical details early. These ClearSpecs techniques include:

1. detailed definitions & facts
2. action contracts
3. precise use cases
4. user acceptance test specs and
5. quality specs

They are also described in a series of technical papers freely available at www.livespecs.com.

Each technique contributes understandable precision to one aspect of the requirements puzzle. When used in combination, they catalyze early development of a common understanding among project stakeholders.

David has more than 35 years experience in software engineering with an emphasis on software quality, verification, and testing (SQVT) and software process engineering. David has been a SQVT consultant/mentor and instructor (20 yrs), quality support manager (5 yrs), verification lead (2 yrs), project lead (2 yrs), and programmer (5 yrs). He co-founded Software Quality Engineering (www.sqe.com, www.stickyminds.com), the leading provider of software quality information worldwide. He also catalyzed the launch of Better Software magazine. In addition, David chaired the development of both ANSI/IEEE standards on software testing – 829 on software test documentation and 1008 on software unit testing.

**Presentations are on the last Tuesday of the month at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel,
123 Queen Street West, across from New City Hall**

If taking the subway, exit at Osgoode station (Queen and University), walk one block east along Queen to York.
If driving, you can park at New City Hall, which is accessible underground to the Sheraton Centre.

Dinner and Presentation: \$35 Members, \$50 Non-Members
Cash and Cheques are accepted at the door.

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday June 24, 2004

5:30 P.M. Networking 6:00 P.M. Dinner 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Presentation

**For reservations, information and membership inquiries,
visit our web site at www.tassq.org or phone TASSQ at (416) 444-4168**